

## *News Release*



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#110527-GUIDE

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### ***2011 Disaster Preparedness Guide Now Available***

Santa Rosa County Division of Emergency Management's latest all-hazards disaster guide is now available. This annual 48-page guide provides preparation information not only for hurricanes, but floods, tornados, pandemics, wildfires, and hazardous chemical accidents as well. Starting next week, residents can pick up a free copy of the guide at county offices and libraries, local chambers of commerce, and local retailers including Walmart, Winn Dixie and Publix, or download an electronic version from the county's website today at [www.santarosa.fl.gov](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov). Additionally, each seventh grader in the Santa Rosa County School District will receive a copy to take home. Churches, civic groups, and businesses may also request multiple copies for distribution as supplies allow by calling Santa Rosa County Emergency Management at (850) 983-5360.

With hurricane season beginning Wednesday, June 1, emergency management would like to remind residents that hurricane evacuation zones changed in the spring of 2010. Hurricane evacuation zones are now identified using the letters A-E. Storms will still be classified according to wind speeds of categories 1-5, but evacuation orders will be issued using zones A-E to better account for deadly storm surge. To see how the changes affect you, see page 23 of the guide or enter your home or business address on the interactive map found at [www.santarosa.fl.gov/gis](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/gis). In order to implement your plans in a timely and effective manner, it is important to become familiar with these changes before a disaster strikes.

Santa Rosa County Emergency Management issues the annual guide as a general guideline to follow when preparing for disasters. As seen in the past, hurricanes are not the only disasters that face residents. Santa Rosa County Emergency Management urges citizens to be prepared and have a plan for all potential disasters. The disaster guide is funded by an Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Base grant for public awareness and education.

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